

President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education Finance Task Force

Hearing Agenda

W Los Angeles Westwood

930 Hilgard Avenue

March 21, 2002

Los Angeles, California

8:15 a.m. ***Welcome, Introductions, and Overview – Chairman Douglas Gill***

8:20 a.m. ***Special Education Cost Drivers***

Special education costs are increasing at an accelerating rate in most school districts in this country. The panel will explore the reasons for these increases, their actual relationships to special education services, and the relationship, if any of costs to student performance, and the view of many parents that costs still exert pressure on schools not to provide appropriate services. Witnesses will include:

1. Bill Freund, Washington State Senate Ways and Means Committee;
2. Jeannine Lorae Martineau California School Boards Association President-elect; and
3. Dr. Stephen Chaikind, Professor of Economics and Finance at Gallaudet University

9:10 a.m. ***Task Force Q&A for the Cost Drivers Panel***

9:50 a.m. ***Regulatory and Administrative Costs***

The panel will review how Federal and state statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements impact on the cost and effectiveness of special education services and the affect the achievement of students with disabilities.

1. Dr. Jack Daray former Senior Fiscal Analyst to the Washington State House of Representatives Appropriations Committee; and
2. Paul M. Goldfinger, Vice-President of School Services of California, Inc.

10:40 a.m. ***Break***

11:00 a.m. ***Task Force Q&A on Regulatory and Administrative Costs***

11:40 p.m. ***Lunch Break***

12:55 p.m. ***Alternative State and Federal Funding Structures***

The panel will review a variety of funding structures and their impact on student achievement and resource allocation. Models considered will include the current Part B and C structures, high-cost-student reimbursement pools, and performance-based waivers of funding restrictions. The panel will also consider how differences in LEA size, location, demographics, and wealth, and in state law and

practice affect the cost and placement of students with disabilities. Panelists will include: Dr. Eric Hanushek, Stanford University.

1:45 p.m. ***Task Force Q&A on Alternative Function Structures***

2:30 p.m. ***Using Money Differently: Can Changes in Resource Deployment and Flows of Funds Improve Desired Student Achievement and Outcomes?***

The panel will address how states and localities allocate special education costs against revenue streams, and make recommendations on how changes in cost allocation or revenue streams may lead to improved student performance. Topics will include the impact of state and local maintenance of effort and supplement not supplant obligations, and restrictions on the use of special education funds for students at-risk of needing services. Panelists will include:

1. Bill Freund, Washington State Senate;
2. Steve Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Bozeman (MT) Public Schools; and
3. Dr. Thomas Parrish, Center for Special Education Finance

3:20 p.m. ***Task Force Q&A on Using Money Differently***

4:10 p.m. ***Break***

4:30 p.m. ***Public Comment Period***

5:30 p.m. ***Adjourn***